

New Dunedin Hospital Outpatient building on track to be delivered in late 2025



Birdseye view of the build site. Image courtesy of RCP

Construction is progressing well on the new Dunedin Hospital Outpatients Building with work on the foundations well underway.

Works carried out by Ceres New Zealand and March Construction commenced in May 2020 with the demolition of the old buildings and structures on the Cumberland and Castle Street block. After clearing the site, piling required for the foundations of the Outpatient Building got underway in June 2022.

"It's really exciting to see these milestones being reached. 78 piles were inserted by *Hammeroid during this part of the project to an average depth of 19m, with the deepest pile reaching 35m below ground level as the building is situated on the old foreshore. The building is well anchored and significant testing has taken place to ensure it meets earthquake safety standards," says Monique Fowler, Director – Delivery, Infrastructure and Investment, Te Whatu Ora.

The next phase is the foundation works managed by main contractor Southbase.

"The piles are being connected together by concrete ground beams laid horizontally in trenches, forming a grid which will then have a giant concrete pad poured over the top. Some people have already noticed the 180-tonne fly jib crane that is on site helping with this work."

"The finished level of the foundations has been chosen to rematch the original concrete slab, The incorporation with the historical slab provides a safer working surface during construction and retaining it has also minimised construction waste and ground disturbance.

"By mid-year the build will start becoming visible on the city's skyline as the vertical steel columns that support the frame of the building will be lifted into place. Many of you will remember 'Stretch', the giant crane that assisted with demolition on the Cadbury site last year, and he'll be coming back to lift beams that will be 28 metres tall on average – that's pretty much the equivalent of 5 giraffes stacked on top of each other! (The average giraffe being about 6 metres tall).

"We are on track to reach our practical completion date of late 2025 for the Outpatients Building and we expect all clinical services will be moved in to this modern fit-for-purpose building at the start of 2026," says Monique Fowler.

The Outpatients Building will be around 15,000 sqm in size. The project is targeting a five Green Star sustainability rating meaning that the design and product specifications for the build are low emission building materials and include 'green' steel and concrete produced in decarbonised environments. The New Dunedin Hospital project is being co-designed with Aukaha and mana whenua.

Enabling works on the Inpatients building started in January with diggers preparing the ground ready for foundation piling early next year when Hammeroid will return. This building is expected to be completed in 2029.

Note: *Hammeroid was the name chosen in an Otago Daily Times competition to name the pile driver machine.

International Women's Day celebrated

Te Whatu Ora Southern proudly celebrated International Women's Day on March 8 by showcasing some of the many incredible women working in health across the Southern region. This year's theme is #embraceequity, and we asked what equity means to them.

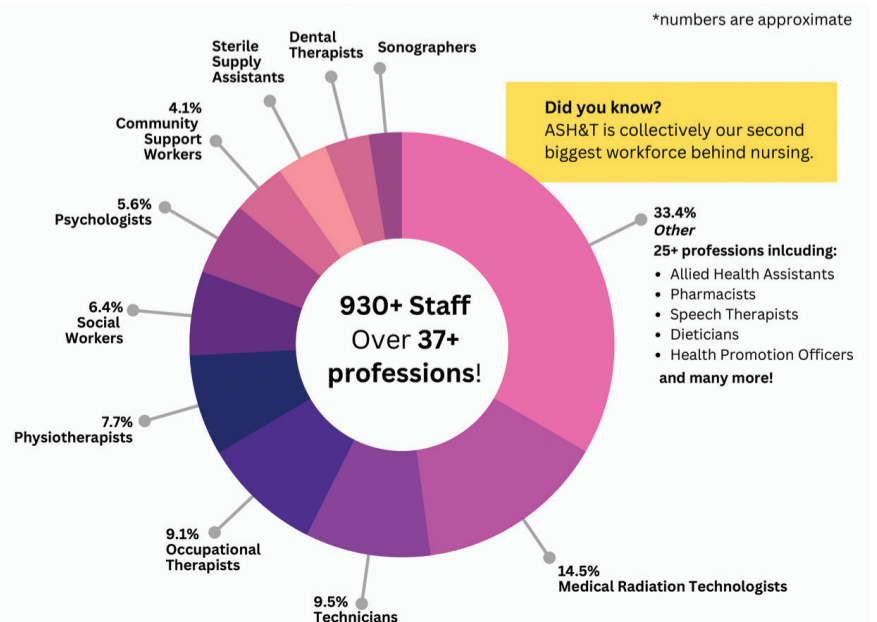


Every fourth Wednesday you can listen to Te Whatu Ora Southern share community health updates on the OARsome Morning Show.

In the latest interview, Kaye Cheetham, Te Whatu Ora Chief Allied Health, Scientific and Technical Officer for Southern, shares more about the role of the second biggest clinical workforce of the entire Southern healthcare team: the Allied Health, Scientific, and Technical workforce.

Listen to the episode here to find out more:
www.southernhealth.nz/podcasts

You can also listen to past episodes!
Listening Time: 09:55



On the right track



Dunedin staff taking part in one of The Right Track programmes run in Otago. The manikin is used to demonstrate the process of what happens to a trauma patient when they arrive at the emergency department

Southland Hospital Trauma Nurse Coordinator Rebecca Coats has four words she hopes will save lives. Do. Not. Drive. Impaired.

"Your life and the lives of others can change in a second. Distractions can kill," she says. "If you are tired pull over. If you are impaired don't get behind the wheel and drive. You must be focused when driving."

It is this very reason Te Whatu Ora Southland and Dunedin staff have been involved in educational and rehabilitation programme 'The Right Track' – a court-ordered, five-week programme that targets people over the age of 18 who are first time and recidivist driving offenders, to educate them on the impact poor driving behaviour has on communities and people.

As part of the programme, participants visit the emergency

department and hear from an ED doctor and ED nurse educator about how they treat people injured in car accidents.

"A police report post-programme found that 86 per cent of people who complete The Right Track do not re-offend," Rebecca says.

Dunedin Hospital Trauma Nurse Coordinator Fiona Thomas volunteers to run the programme in Otago and has been involved in four programmes to date.

"Working in the hospital we mostly see the end result of people injured in crashes. Being part of this programme feels like it is the 'ambulance at the top of the cliff'. You are part of a programme which motivates and encourages people to make better decisions and choices, which can ultimately aid in preventing future driving offending and injury," Fiona says.

Getting to Dunedin Hospital

We know that coming to the Hospital can be a stressful experience.

There are currently road works in central Dunedin which are affecting traffic flow and car parking.

We recommend you factor this in when attending the Hospital. There are two main entrances to Dunedin Hospital:

Great King Street entrance

There are road works currently being completed along Great King Street.

The drop off zone on Great King Street can be used to drop off patients. Vehicles must be then moved on to allow for other patients being dropped off or picked up. At this entrance there are wheelchairs available if needed.

There is clearly marked pedestrian access. Please follow the designated signs and traffic management team instructions.

The Emergency Department is accessed from Great King Street into the concourse where there is also a drop off zone. This drop off zone can also be used for patients being dropped off or picked up. Vehicles must then be moved on.

Please be aware of emergency vehicles at all times.

Cumberland Street entrance

There is a drop off zone outside this entrance as well. There are steps and a ramp into the Hospital.



From Hamish Brown, Te Whatu Ora Interim Lead – Hospital and Specialist Services for Southern

Our Southern hospitals remain busy. This is due to large numbers of very unwell people coming into the Emergency Department, along with staff illness and vacancies. This problem is not isolated to the Southern Region – many hospitals around the country are also very busy.

Our Emergency Departments do not turn anyone away who is seeking medical help. We know that waiting can be frustrating and stressful, especially if you are not feeling well. Our sickest patients are seen first. If you are waiting and have a concern, please approach the triage nurse. Our Emergency Department staff are working extremely hard 24/7 to provide the best care they can for all patients.

Our busy hospitals also mean we have to prioritise all health care appropriately. We know some patients are facing long waits for planned operations and tests. We apologise for this and encourage you to stay connected with your health care team to discuss any concerns or to ask questions. We know waiting is stressful, and we appreciate your patience, kindness and understanding. Please remember there is a member of your community behind the mask looking after you.

As we head into the cooler months, I encourage you to get prepared for winter. Are your vaccinations up to date? It is time to check in with your GP to discuss any non-urgent health concerns? Do you need to pick up repeat prescriptions to ensure you have your medications at hand?

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank our health care workforce. Our teams are all working above and beyond every day to care for our community and I am very proud of their commitment and hard work.

Are your vaccinations up to date?

With winter approaching, we remind our community to keep up to date with vaccinations, including COVID boosters. Now is also a good time to check in with your GP and pharmacist for non-urgent health care. Please also collect your repeat prescriptions when due to ensure you have your medications on hand.

- For general health advice and information call Healthline on 0800 611 116 anytime
- For COVID-19 health advice call 0800 358 5453 anytime
- For COVID-19 vaccination advice call 0800 28 29 26 (8am-8pm 7 days a week)
- If your child or baby is unwell, call Plunketline 24/7 for advice on 0800 933 922
- Information is here for GP services and pharmacies in Southern
- You can text or call 1737 for 24/7 mental health support.

Congratulations to our new Nurse Practitioners

Te Whatu Ora Southern now has six newly qualified nurse practitioners with four based in Dunedin and two in Invercargill.

Narissa Weber (Child, Adolescent and Family Service) and Melinda Prekopa (Older Persons Health) are both based at Southland Hospital, while Matt Kendrick (Older Person's Mental Health) is at Dunedin Hospital.

To become a nurse practitioner, a registered nurse must complete Masters education and advanced clinical practice requirements in a specific area of practice.

Melinda says being a nurse practitioner means she can now provide holistic care within the community, tailoring her services, and involving whānau in a patient's health journey.

"I became a nurse practitioner to overcome the constant challenges of a fragmented system and assist patients to receive timely care when and where they need it," says Melinda.

For Matt and Narissa, being able to diagnose and prescribe completes the holistic circle of health. "We feel

we can now look after the whole patient, and all of their needs. We see our role as not only for our patients, but also educating and building relationships within the community," says Narissa

The trio say they couldn't have completed the course without the support of their workplace. As well as regular check-ins by their managers and colleagues, they had the support of the well-established nurse practitioner group in Southern. The other newly qualified practitioners include Christine Ho (Gastroenterology, Dunedin), Trudy Galer (Women's Health/ Gynaecology, Dunedin) and Toni Johnston (Critical Care, Dunedin).

Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer Jane Wilson says becoming a nurse practitioner is not always an easy pathway, but is delighted to see so many new nurse practitioners in Southern recently.

"We now have 22 Te Whatu Ora employed nurse practitioners and many also working in other settings in the community."